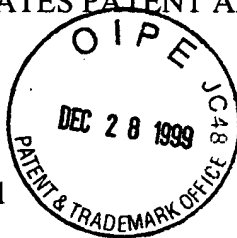


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of  
James W. Nichol



: December 27, 1999  
: Group Art Unit: 3600  
: Examiner: Richard M. Smith

Serial No.: 09/106,841  
Filed: 06/30/98

For: ANGLED GRIPPING JOINT COMBINATION FOR SUPPORT STRUCTURES **RECEIVED**

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

JAN 18 2000

GROUP 2/00

Outstanding Office Action Mailed: 10/28/99

Original period for response expired: 11/28/99

Request for extension of 1 month to: 12/28/99

Small Entity Petition Fee Enclosed: \$55 for 1 month

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In the above-noted application, applicant respectfully petitions that the period for response to the outstanding Office Action and the above Petition Fee (Small Entity) are enclosed herewith. (This extension will not extend the time over the statutory period of six months from the date of the Office Action.)

Very Respectfully,  
Applicant  
James W. Nicol

*J. N.*

**RECEIVED**  
JAN - 5 2000  
FEDERAL CENTER 2700

Enclosures: Amendment dated December 27, 1999 in response to the Office Action, cancelling Claims 1 - 14; replacement Abstract, Specification, Claims; Marked up copies of changes to Abstract, Specification, Claims;

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that this correspondence will be deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class EXPRESS mail with proper postage affixed in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date below.

December 28, 1999

Applicant

*J. N.*